



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

JUDICIAL PROCEDURES COMMISSION

Hall of Administration / 500 West Temple Street / Los Angeles, California 90012 / (213) 974-1431

MEMBERS

Bertrum M. CeDillos
Chair

Clifton W. Albright
Vice Chair

Lee Kanon Alpert
Nelson L. Atkins
Walter P. Coombs
William J. Galloway
Ann Jackson
Thomas J. Jeffers
Janice Kamenir-Reznik
Neal S. Millard
Carol L. Rose
Sylvia Scott-Hayes
Robbi J. Work

MINUTES OF THE 653rd MEETING OF THE JUDICIAL PROCEDURES COMMISSION

The 653rd meeting of the Los Angeles County Judicial Procedures Commission was held on July 15, 2004, in Room 864 at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, California. A list of those in attendance follows:

MEMBERS PRESENT

Bertrum M. CeDillos, Chair
Clifton Albright, Vice Chair
Lee Kanon Alpert
William J. Galloway
Ann Jackson
Thomas J. Jeffers
Janice Kamenir-Reznik
Neal S. Millard
Carol Rose

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Nelson L. Atkins
Walter P. Coombs
Sylvia Scott Hayes
Robbi J. Work

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Heather Aubry, Los Angeles City Attorney
Sgt. Bruce Haar, LASD
Larry Mason, District Attorney's Office
Ronald A. Yorizane, Public Defender's Office
Honorable Dennis Zine, Independent Cities Association

COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

Bea Dieringer, District Attorney's Office

Margaret Little, Superior Court
Honorable John H. Sandoz, Superior Court
Peggy Shuttleworth, CCJCC
Zoe Venhuizen, Superior Court

CITY REPRESENTATIVES

Lt. George Bush, L.A.P.D.
Michael Karsch, Los Angeles City

GUESTS

Laura Green, Public Defender's Office

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Jim Corbett
Dedie Ward
Nyla Jefferson

CALL TO ORDER

Chair CeDillos called the 653rd regular meeting of the Los Angeles County Judicial Procedures Commission (JPC) to order at 12:29 p.m. Ex-Officio Member Zine was asked to lead everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance which was followed by introductions of Commissioners, Ex-Officio Members, Staff, and guests. Chair CeDillos then presented Commissioner Rose with a crystal Award of Appreciation in recognition of her service as Chair of the Commission from 2002-2004.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF JUNE 17, 2004

On motion of Commissioner Kamenir-Reznik, seconded by Vice Chair Albright, and unanimously carried, the minutes of June 17, 2004 were approved.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair CeDillos distributed the new List of Committees and Member Assignments for 2004. Two new committees have been added to the list: the Superior Court Liaison Committee with Commissioner Millard as the Chair, and the Judicial Procedures Advocacy Committee which will be chaired by former Commissioner Steve Gorley.

Chair CeDillos thanked Commissioners and Ex-Officio members for contributing their expertise and time to serve on the Commission's Committees, and encouraged everyone to become involved with committee activities.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Chair CeDillos introduced Ex-Officio Member Larry Mason, Senior Specialist Assistant, District Attorney's Office, who gave a comprehensive overview on the structure, divisional functions and the operational organization of his department.

Mr. Mason reported the following:

- The District Attorney's office is the 5th largest law enforcement agency in the County employing 1,918 employees. Of that number, 913 are Deputy DAs; 230 are DA Investigators; and 775 are support staff.
- The department budget is approximately \$250,000,000 which is derived from State, Federal, and County allocations.
- Last year approximately 65,000 felony and 125,000 misdemeanor cases were filed in the unincorporated areas of the County where there is generally no city prosecutor.
- In 2003, the conviction rate for felony cases settled without a trial was above 90%, and 70-75% for trial cases.
- The DA has three major operational divisions: Line Operations, Special Operations, and Administration.

Mr. Mason also reported that District Attorney Steve Cooley has been acknowledged for the implementation of key policy changes, and program operations during his tenure which include:

- The Three Strikes policy.
- The Public Integrity Division, which addresses the corruption of public officials
- The Justice System Integrity Division, which solely investigates and prosecutes acts by members of the criminal justice system including police officers, and attorneys.
- The reinstatement of the Roll-Out program for officer involved shootings.
- Creation of a forensic DNA section to solve cold cases and collect DNA from criminal cases.
- Establishment of a Crime Lab Advisory Board to create a state-of-the-art DNA/crime lab facility at Cal State Los Angeles.
- The Victims Impact Program created to vigorously prosecute crimes against vulnerable victims.
- Development of a Community-based justice program.
- The DA also receives on a cooperative basis information from police agencies on potential problem officers and officers that have committed an act that jeopardizes their credibility. A carefully controlled database maintains information on these officers.

In addition, various projects have been developed that call for collaboration among law enforcement agencies such as: the Los Angeles County Prosecutors Association, and the Southern California Prosecutors Association which consists of 10 Southern Counties in the State that meet quarterly to discuss mutual interests and concerns.

Following a question and answer period, Chair CeDillos thanked Mr. Mason for his informative presentation.

Ronald Yorizane introduced Laura Green, Division Chief of Central Trials, Public Defender's Office and announced that Ms. Green will be replacing him as the Ex-Officio representative from the Public Defender's Office.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Donation Trust Fund Report

Currently, the JPC Donation Trust Fund has a balance of \$5,000. At this time, the Commission has not received enough donations to assist Airport Court in the purchase of the \$8,000 door which is needed to complete the Child Waiting Room in that facility. Commissioner Rose reported that the Assistant District Attorney's Association (ADDA) has offered to assist in raising money for the Trust Fund by producing special note pads to sell which will cost \$10 for 12 and should be available within a few weeks. The L. A. County Bar Foundation is willing to donate \$1,000 to the Trust Fund if the Commission can match its donation with \$2,000 by the end of August. An extension on the deadline has been requested, however, the Commission has not received a response from the Bar Foundation at this time. Following discussion, Commissioners agreed rather than chance losing the donation from the Bar Foundation while waiting for the proceeds from the note pad sales to come through, that they would come up with the \$2,000 from donation pledges from Commissioners, Ex-Officio members, and any other willing contributors.

Commissioner Kamenir-Reznik then pledged \$250 and challenged Commissioners and Ex-Officio Members to consider matching her pledge. Commissioners Alpert, CeDillos, Jackson, Millard and Ex-Officio Member Zine also pledged \$250, and Ex-officio Member Aubry pledged \$100. Ex-Officio Member Zine offered to solicit the Los Angeles Police Department's Protection League for a donation. A letter will be sent to the Bar Foundation informing them that the Commission has acquired the matching \$2000.

Police Overtime Committee

Lt. Bush, Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), reported that the police department and the City Attorney's Office have implemented a Witness Detail program which assists in the reduction of overtime expenditures. The Witness Detail gathers evidence and obtains "cop outs" from defendants. This program not only reduces the need for overtime, but also creates a better working relationship between the two agencies. In June, 172 officers were released from subpoenas in connection with the early disposition of cases. With this program, the quality and handling of criminal cases has

improved resulting in earlier dispositions of cases, and more importantly, getting officers back on the street.

Child Custody Exchange Committee

Bea Dieringer, District Attorney's Office, gave an update on the Child Custody Exchange Committee, saying that at its last meeting, two facilities were being considered for exchange sites; the Carson and Temple City Sheriff Stations. The City Council has graciously donated computers, printers and other equipment for use at the proposed exchange centers. The Committee would like to have a dedicated fax in each center to send and receive court information and documentation and storage for files and various related court forms.

The Committee is also in the process of gathering statistical information and supporting documentation that can justify and quantify the need for these exchange centers as well as for use in applying for grants. Lt. Bush commented that he will invite the Los Angeles City Facilities Manager to speak before the Committee and address the availability of space in LAPD facilities, particularly in the new stations.

Last month Ann Pembedjian, Deputy, Supervisor Antonovich's Office, informed the Commission and distributed materials about an organization called Project Safe Haven located in the Monrovia United Methodist Church, which provides an environment where custody exchanges can be performed safely and comfortably. Ms. Dieringer has contacted the agency to review its operational structure. The Center, which has been in business for almost four years, has an alarm system with a panic button directly connected to the local Police Department which is across the street from the facility, and monitors are used to view the parents dropping off and picking up their children. Private facilities are also being considered as possible sites for exchange centers.

Update on the Letter to Board of Supervisors Urging Their Support of Continued Funding For the Self Help Legal Access Centers

Commissioner Kamenir-Reznik reported that the letter of support is no longer necessary as funding for the centers is not in jeopardy at this time.

Update on letter of support to the L.A.C.B.A. for funding for the Child Waiting Room Project

Commissioner Millard commented that he will contact the Chair of the Los Angeles County Bar Foundation, Larry Liberman, to inform him that the Commission has come up with the matching funds and request that they send the \$1000 donation.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

MATTERS NOT ON THE POSTED AGENDA

None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:29 p.m.